

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Joyce Soong, Crab Biologist
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
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Nome, Alaska 99762
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RECORD EXVESSEL VALUE IN NORTON SOUND RED KING CRAB FISHERY

Record prices paid for Norton Sound red king crab resulted in the 2012 Norton Sound summer king crab fishery setting a record exvessel value. Norton Sound permit holders harvested 440,000 pounds of red king crab in the open access commercial king crab fishery for a record payout of 2.4 million dollars. It was back to back record payouts for Norton Sound crab fishermen as this year's exvessel value exceeded the previous record exvessel value of 2 million dollars in 2011.

In 2012 Norton Sound red king crab prices paid to fishermen ranged from \$5.25 to \$5.60 per pound. Although the record harvest for Norton Sound red king crab of nearly 3 million pounds occurred in 1979 the price paid then was only 75 cents per pound. This summer's harvest was the highest red king crab harvest since 1986.

The CDQ portion of the crab fishery remains open with slightly over 17,000 pounds of red king crab remaining on the quota of 34,910 pounds. The combined open access and CDQ harvest this year will be approximately 475,000 pounds of crab.

Congratulations to Norton Sound permit holders and crew members, and to the seafood workers who were able to keep the processing line moving smoothly in 2012 with the highest red king harvest in over 25 years.